April 3, 1977

MEMO: DeMohrenschildt & McDonald

I wonder how much of the recent DeMohrenschildt flap traces back in one way or another to McDonald's "Appointment in Dallas" and possibly also to the phony "Dear Mr. Hunt" Letter, revealed in the Dallas Times HErald on 2/6/77. It was always clear that McDonald had Saul fingering DeMorhenschildt, whom he dubbed "Troit." It is conceivable that this may have had some effect on DeM, who is reported to have said that "Everyone is making a million by selling their version of the story" so why shouldn't he--or words to that effect. I believe he even vacillated in what he told Oltmans, i.e., that it was true or that he was just making it up.

Just to rehash, here are the facts that McDonald has Saul relate that make it clear Troit is DeMohresnchildt:

1. Saul first met Troit in Guatemala at the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion: "...a certain man would appear ocassionally at the campsite. It was whispered around that he was one of the American agents. He seemed to be primarily involved in a type of industrial sabotage." (p. 141) DeMohresnchildt was in Guatemala at that time and his training would have qualified him for such a role.

2. Saul goes to Haiti in mid-May 1963 to meet "the man" who turns out to be Troit, to discuss arrangements to kill JFK. (pp. 144-46). DeMohrenschildt was in Haiti from May 1963 until the end of the year. The Warren Report says DeM was in Haiti from June 1963 (R 283) but DeM testified that he left for Haiti at the end of May 1963 (9H276).

Other details from "Saul" make it quite clear that McDonald read DeMohrenschildt's testimony and used it. Saul says he went to Port au Prince. DeMohresnchildt at one point mentions that his office was in Port au Prince (AID, p. 144; 9H281). Also, Saul says he stayed at the Hotel Ibolele (p. 144). In his testimony, DeMohresnchildt was questioned about a map of Haiti that he had sent someone in the mail (DeM. Ex. No. 11). On the map, Port au Prince is circled, and there is an arrow pointing to something next to which DeMohresnchildt wrote "Ibolele Hotel." (9H280)

Also, the only detail about Troit's appearance is gray hair (146). I don't know if DeM's hair was gray.

3. At a later meeting, Troit tells Saul that he has a "friend" who has just returned from Russia and who will be framed as the assassin. The friend is Oswald, who was DeMohrenschildt's "friend." (see pp. 152-53). A possibly significant detail: "This 'friend' was crazy enough to believe anything he told him." (p. 152) Note the testimony of Larry Taylor, DeM's former son-in-law: "there seemed to be a great deal of influence there...it seems like whatever his (deM's) suggestions were, Lee grabbed them and took them--whether it was what time to go to bed or where to stay or to let Marina stay with us while he stayed at the YMCA." (9H96).

For what it's worth, McDonald has DeM as a middle-man, taking orders from above: "He was waiting for orders himself" (154); "Troit, I began to believe, represented a group with unlimited finances" (149).

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